



**HCMC Open University
Sociology and Social Work Department**

DISABILITY RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT (DRD)

Address: *91/6N Hòa Hưng St., Ward 12, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

Tel: 84-8-38682770 Fax: 84-8-38682771

Email: info@drdvietnam.com

Website: www.drdvietnam.com

Project
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:
DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK IN THE
SOUTH OF VIETNAM
(Grant Number: 1080-1214)

NARRATIVE REPORT
(August 1st, 2010 – July 31st, 2011)

√ Activities/Issues Addressed

I. Building the network of groups/ organizations of people with disabilities in the South of Vietnam

1. Training :

1.1. “Event organizing skills”

training for 23 people with disabilities on 24 and 25 July 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City. The training covered the concept of “event”, and the purpose, meaning, benefits, and forms of events. The training included the WISE method



and provided tools for planning. Participants had an opportunity to practice the planning of events.

1.2. Training of Trainer

(TOT) on Networking for 24 youths with disabilities on 10 to 12 July 2011. The training built capacities for using forms, introducing, evaluating and using group working methods. The training also provided skills to design a lesson



plan and a teaching outline and other supporting skills.

1.3. “Proposal writing skills”

for 25 people with hearing impairment in Ho Chi Minh City on 18-19 December 2011. The training provided knowledge on concepts related to the networking project, project components, base-line



survey, SWOT Analysis, how to set up problem tree (cause and effect), and how to formulate a general objective, specific objectives and activities. Grant model and budget structure were also explained.

1.4. “Treatment and education for children with autism” for 40 parents and teachers of children with autism. The training explained the symptoms of autism, introduced the articles "More Than Words", "One Small Step by Step" and



"Early Intervention Skills" by Medical Doctor Pham Ngoc Thanh, and presented the 8 practice at the Psychology Department of the Children Hospital Number 1.

1.5. "Capacity building for the hearing impaired" for 54 persons with hearing impairment, members of the Association for People with Disabilities of Da Nang City, on 30 and 31 March 2011. The training helped analyze why people with hearing impairment have fewer chances to go to high schools and, generally, the access barriers they meet in the school system. Their situation in respect of employment was also discussed and monthly activities were planned.

1.6. “Time management training “for 20 students with disabilities part of the Mentoring Scholarship Program of DRD, on 20 March 2011. The students learned how to manage their time efficiently, and how to establish individual plans for studying and for their daily life activities.

1.7. “Communication skills for women with disabilities” for 50 women of the Women with Disabilities Club, on 15 May 2011. The participants were trained on basic rules to promote the "should" and limit the “should not” in communication. Practice exercises helped participants feel more confident communicating with others.

1.8. “Labour law training”

for 40 women with disabilities, on 26 June 2011. The training was conducted by a lawyer to help the participants understand relevant labour law issues and the laws for workers with disabilities. The training



also examined more in detail the rights and obligations of the women with disabilities in a working environment.

1.9. "Fund raising skills" for DRD staff and volunteers on 28 April 2011. The training covered the different steps, basic principles of communication and planning when applying for a grant.

1.10. "Event organizing skills" for a group of students of the Mentoring Scholarship program, on 10 April 2011. The training provided skills on how to choose ideas for an event, how to organize it and how to set up the budget.

2. Events

- 2.1. **National workshop “People with disabilities- integration and development in the new phase”** on 10 and 11 June 2011, co-organized by DRD, DP Hanoi and Inclusive Development Action (IDEA). Attending the workshop were representatives from organizations such as: Vietnam Association of PWD, Ho Chi Minh Charitable Center of Training and Offering Job for Handicapped, the International Labour Organization (ILO), (NCCD), the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), press agencies and over 150 Representatives from disability organizations nationwide.



- 2.2. **Children’s Day**, 1st June 2011: More than 300 children with disabilities and autism from special schools in Ho Chi Minh City, together with their teachers and parents and volunteers of DRD were involved in different group activities including playgroups – giving the children an opportunity to interact, play and communicate.

3. Small grants : Till August 2011 DRD provided grants to the following projects:

- 3.1. Project to produce bamboo chopsticks of the Club of People with Disabilities in Dien Khanh, Dien Khanh District, Khanh Hoa Province. The project has provided training to 20 persons with disabilities. Up to now, 13 out of these 20 persons at Dien Phu commune have reached an average income of 600,000 VND / person/month thanks to their newly acquired skills. After one year of project implementation, the key members started their business and trained other club members of Dien Khanh and other communes. Thanks to the project, the Club

has built capacities which will enable its members to maintain and develop their career.

3.2. Project to build the capacity of the members of the Club of Students with Disabilities of Dong Thap University. 40 members have participated in activities, including networking and exchange, and life skills training.

3.3. Project to help Bao Loc Group canvass and register as an official organization of people with disabilities. The Youth with Disabilities Association of Bao Loc city was established at a conference held on 2 December 2010, with 62 members. It has been recognized as a member of the Fatherland Committee of Bao Loc city and received funding of 7,000,000VND for its activities in 2011. The Association's mission is to represent its members and to coordinate, support and promote cooperation between them, as well as with the departments, relevant agencies and organizations, to develop production activities and employment opportunities for income generation.

3.4. Project to help people with hearing impairment to improve their writing by the HCMC Club of People with Hearing Impairment. 135 trainees participated in the courses. The project is aimed at helping hearing impaired people who could not go to school or had just a few years of study in special schools. The project has helped them broaden their knowledge through books, pictures, television, etc., and has improved their capacity to communicate in writing in a working environment.



4. Sharing information: DRD has launched a website on laws and legal documents and has formed a legal advisory group consisting of several well-known lawyers and law associates. This group will help answer questions sent to the forum of the website, and will provide consultancy and protection to PWD in need (for more information, please see <http://luatvachinh sach.drdvietnam.com>).

II. Developing the disability-friendly Clubhouse

Since March 2010 the clubhouse 'Life Is Beautiful' has proved its success as a disability-friendly recreational area where people with disabilities (PWD) can meet, exchange ideas and participate in activities with people without disabilities on the basis of equal opportunity and mutual support. Other groups also use the facilities for their networking activities.

When PWD come to DRD's Clubhouse they feel like at home. It is a place for them to gather, share their desires and ambitions and realize that they can live happily, work well and contribute to building the community.

The Clubhouse key activities are the following:

1. Independent living skills for youths with developmental disabilities

At the Clubhouse, the youths with developmental disabilities can get a daily school/education program and some pre-vocational training. They can also continue to learn and practice the skills to take care of themselves, live independently and interact with others. There have been 10 youths with developmental



disabilities, aged 8 to 31 years, with different levels of retardation. The youths have been given the opportunity to join activities such as learning how to read and write, independent living skills, cooking, shopping, swimming, Aikido, etc.

Since April 2011 they have had the opportunity to learn basic skills for making incense, and to develop soft skills for team work and time management.

On 14 April 2011, the My Future's parent group, in collaboration with DRD, organized a workshop for parents of youths with developmental disabilities, with the participation of more than 30 parents of retarded children in Ho Chi Minh City. The parents expressed many opinions, suggestions and worries on the future of their children, and the issue of their integration into society.

After the workshop, the parents agreed to have monthly meeting (on Saturdays) and planned to set up small groups of youth with developmental disability in Ho Chi Minh City. These discussions can be found on the DRD's website (http://drdvietnam.com/news/127067/vi#comment_127147).

Advocacy:

- The activities of the group has drawn the attention of the media, such as newspapers and television, and of the forum of parents of retarded children (<http://www.concuame.com/forum/>)

Newspapers have published information about the activities of the Clubhouse including:

+ Saigon Marketing newspaper with: [Thế võ Aikido và những phân đội đặc biệt](http://sgtt.vn/Loi-song/Song-va-chia-se/135520/The-vo-Aikido-va-nhung-phan-doi-dac-biet.html) (<http://sgtt.vn/Loi-song/Song-va-chia-se/135520/The-vo-Aikido-va-nhung-phan-doi-dac-biet.html>)

+ Video clip [MyFuture tại Đồi Rất Đẹp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5ulnrkCmDE&feature=player_embedded#%21) (do DRD phối hợp cùng báo Sài Gòn tiếp Thị) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5ulnrkCmDE&feature=player_embedded#%21)

+ Youth newspaper with: [Scrap unconstitutional ID law: experts](http://www.thanhniennews.com/2010/Pages/20110409153422.aspx) (<http://www.thanhniennews.com/2010/Pages/20110409153422.aspx>)

+DRD website: [diễn đàn của phụ huynh có con chậm phát triển](http://drdvietnam.com/forum/tag/120138)

(<http://drdvietnam.com/forum/tag/120138> and <http://drdvietnam.com/vi/news/127067/vi>)

2. Pilot employment program for youth with hearing impairment

DRD has been the place where youth with hearing impairment can acquire Hospitality skills such as bartending and waitressing. The people with hearing impairment encounter great difficulties in finding employment in the hospitality sector because of their very limited capacity to communicate verbally.

DRD encourages the youths to take employment and communicate with customers, providing them with positive feedback and giving them recommendations to find work outside. Trainees who excel can be recruited to be peer trainers.

- DRD collaborated with Ms.Nga (of the Women Cultural House of Ho Chi Minh City) to organize training courses on “Party table decoration” and “Vegetables trimming” for 10 youths with hearing impairment. Courses were held once a week during 2 months.
- DRD arranged a corner in the Clubhouse to sell handicraft and other products made by PWD.

Besides learning a trade, the youth with hearing impairment can also improve their writing skills, learn English and participate in DRD’s activities to develop key social skills.

3. Club of Women with Disabilities

Training and workshops:

- DRD organized a course for 5 women with disabilities to help them develop the craft of making jewellery and generate income.
- DRD held a training on “communication skills” on 15 May 2011 for 50 women with disabilities in Ho Chi Minh City. This training included the “Should” and “Should not” approach in communication.
- 40 women with disabilities were trained on “Labour law” on 26 June 2011 by a lawyer. The training focused on labour legal issues for PWD, and on the rights and obligations of women with disabilities in the labour market.

Activities of the Club of Women

- Participation in three fairs: Book Fair 2011, Trade Fair 2011 and Agriculture Fair 2011.
- Participation in Cooking Contest for Women with Disabilities on 8 March 2011.
- Organization of a beauty class on the topic of " No ugly woman, only woman" on April 2011.

- Organization of a "Matching club" on 21 April 2011.
- Outing on 17 July 2011 to Tan Cang with teamwork topics.
- Participation in the contest "understanding the legislation for people with disabilities ", sponsored by the Disabled and Orphans Organization of Ha Noi and the Hanoi Television.



4. Organizing music nights with the performances of talented PWDs

At the Clubhouse, Thursday evenings are set aside for the singing workshops and for making the acquaintance of artists and writers. Friday and Saturday evenings are available for planned professional music programs.

DRD believes that music is a great way to create a bond of friendship and affection between people of different cultures and social background. Friday and Saturday nights' music performances are also an effective means of introducing DRD's goals and activities to the audience.

- On July 2011, the Clubhouse held a vocal class for youth with disabilities. The trainer was Ms. Ngoc Mai - Singer, vocal teacher of the conservatory of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On 12 June 2011, a music show was organized by the Clubhouse at Teakwang Vina Company for over 10,000 workers.

The Clubhouse staff also held large concerts at the club house including special concerts of Trinh Cong Son such as "**Afternoon in my country**" with artist Thanh Hai; Memorial musician Trinh Cong Son, and Music night of artist Tong Son; Mini show of singer Ngoc Mai; Mini show of singer Duc Minh; music night "**Gratitude Mother**" for Vu Lan season; and a fundraising concert for PWD in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami, which collected 20,000,000 VND from ticket sales.

As a result of these activities, more and more business people acknowledge DRD's valuable work and offer their assistance.

5. Book Club and Living Values Education

The Book Club of DRD aims at bringing a reading culture to the youth, helping them recognize by themselves the value of the books through various activities, such as sharing Living Values, introducing scholars, writers and poets, presenting new literature and learning through films...



This year the Book Club held eight sessions on Living Values which is an educational program of the Association of International Education. DRD invited the following speakers: Ms Pham Thi Thu Thuy, M.A of Sociology to talk on the theme : " Discover Yourself "; Ms Vu Bao Chau, a LVEP program lecturer, who is also chairman of DRD Book Club to talk on " Stress Management"; Scholars, Mr. Vu Pham Con Son and Ms Vu Bao Chau to talk on " Writer Pham Con Son - Quiet steps "; Doctors Do Hong Ngoc and Nguyen Thi Ngoc, Social workers holding the sessions on "Master Nguyen Thi Oanh and her life"; Ms Joanna Kitto an UK psychologist, to talk on the theme "Increasing our self-esteem".

More than 490 students, social workers, people with disabilities and editors of newspapers participated in these sessions.

6. Sunday Group

DRD facilitated the establishment of the Sunday Group to improve:

- The spiritual life of people with mental health problems and their families
- Their ability to integrate into society
- The understanding between



patients and their families, as well as the empathy of society at large.

The activities of the Sunday Group have been as follows:

- The Group was re-organized, a management board was selected and leaders were chosen. Plans were established for the carrying out of activities.
- More than 20 activities were carried out during the year, which have allowed for relaxation, playing sports, talking to doctors, sharing about difficulties in life...all aimed at encouraging team building spirit and mutual empathy. Activities were held 4 times at DRD Clubhouse, 5 times in a park, once at Thien An Warm house, 8 times at members' houses, and included also a one-day trip to Ben Tre and visits on Tet holidays or for birthday celebrations.
- The Group joined some DRD activities, by attending in particular the celebration of the Day of Disability, the Book Club meetings and training on Living Values, the drawing competition for children with disabilities and the cooking contest.

The Group has received the support of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers with counseling on health-care and psychological issues.

7. Providing Services

The Clubhouse is also a place where products made by PWD can be exhibited and introduced to a wider public. This activity is aimed at changing the public's perception of PWD's abilities while helping them to increase their sales.

The Clubhouse is also a place where parents, teachers and social workers can work together and help one another through support groups.

Social work students can also hold their seminars there.

Beside the activities organized by DRD, the Clubhouse hosted in 2011, 7 activities organized by other organizations. These activities attracted 210 participants including PWDs, social science students and next door neighbors. These activities were the following:

- Training on “skills for communication with vulnerable children”,
- A Rainbow group activity
- Training on “basic skills for makeup”, organized by Shisedo
- Launching of a ceremony on “Social businessman supporting program”, CSIP
- Workshop on “ Team building- organizational development”, Xuan Vinh group
- Training on "Social Media", iStory
- Launching of the iStory project

On 3 August 2011, Pham Truong Tan Scholarship Fund and the group “the Poor help the Poorer” held at the Clubhouse the night "Love and Poetry" at which eight books were presented, with emphasis on the poem collection by author Han Phong Vu, whose whole body was paralyzed after a traffic accident.

8. Collaboration with other NGOs

As a local NGO, DRD keeps a network with other non-profit organizations and collaborate with them in different activities, such as the organization of workshops at the Clubhouse. This year, DRD has been collaborating with the LIN Center to build a sustainable development plan for DRD and to extend



relationships with enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City. DRD is also working with social enterprises through the SCIP and the Vietnam Federation on Disability, for the development and expansion of a network of national disability organizations. There have been 26 workshops, seminars and special events organized by different NGOs, hosted at the Clubhouse’s facilities.

☑ **Expected Outcomes**

Project expected outcomes:

1. An active network of disabled people organizations (DPOs) in the South of Vietnam will be created
2. The voice of PWDs will be heard
3. Members of society will change their rooted misconception that PWDs are incompetent and only worth of pity and charity, and a friendlier and more supportive environment for PWDs will be created.

Actual Results as to July 2011

Outcome 1: *A network of DPOs is building in the South:* DRD has organized 11 training courses and workshops during the year and an additional workshop “People with disabilities- integration and development in the new phase” on 10 and 11 June 2011, in collaboration with DP Hanoi and Inclusive Development Action (IDEA). At the workshop one presentation was made on some typical operational models of Association/Group. Another presentation highlighted the impact of the International Convention on Disability, the disability-support policies, and the Vietnam Law on disability which took effect on 1 January 2011. The workshop also discussed on the means to enhance the role, value and contribution of PWD in general and of women with disabilities (WWD) in particular; the means to raise awareness, to change attitudes of society toward disability issues and to create proper conditions for the integration of PWD. The delegates discussed in groups three key issues: organizational development, employment issues for PWD and the role of WWD in the new phase.

DRD has also assisted several groups such as Khanh Hoa, Bao Loc and Dong Thap to successfully register businesses to generate income for their members, and helped people with hearing impairment, members of the HCMC Club, to improve communication skills through reading and writing.

Outcome 2: *The voice of PWDs is rising*

The combined efforts of many organizations working for and with people with disabilities, including DRD, are having a significant influence on the empowerment of PWD. These organizations' activities have a focus on rights, voices, and capacities. Many member organizations part of the network recognize the importance of the values and skills acquired through their participation in DRD's training courses and events. Some organizations and social groups in the South with the support of DRD have been recognized by local authorities, which was a very important condition for them to expand their activities, and continue working for the acknowledgement of the rights of people with disabilities and for their contribution to the development of society. Training-for-trainers sessions (TOT) organized by DRD have also helped expand training capacities and reach out to more members of social groups. New information on laws, policies, social programs, news, etc. that network organizations receive from DRD are also shared in turn to their members during organizations' regular meetings.

Mass media, newspaper reports and TV coverage have helped publicize our activities and have brought stories of our members to a larger audience.

Objective 3: The mindset of mainstream society on PWD is gradually changing

Through the different activities organized at the Clubhouse - workshops, training, seminars, events, music shows, poem nights – DRD has reached out to very diverse participants such as students, parents, visitors, volunteers, people with and without disabilities, and has thereby managed to catch the attention of the community at large and the media. When people come to the Clubhouse they receive and understand the message that “Life is very beautiful” for everyone with or without disabilities.

Reflections

The Clubhouse has become a place where PWDs and persons without disabilities can meet and change their way of thinking about values and capacity, helping PWD feel more confidence to come and share their stories and talents. People without disabilities such as artists, students, volunteers and business people have also come to study, do internships, provide their support, etc.

DRD's network has attracted the participation of a growing number of PWD and groups. Our networking and advocacy activities have also received the attention of other NGOs and donors who work in the disability field, such as East Meets West, VNAH, CRS, ILO, AusAid, IrishAid, Nippon Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, Social Sciences Universities, etc.

The support of the Ford Foundation for more than 6 years has helped turn DRD from a small organization of 4 staff into a center with more than 20 staff, able to carry out many community projects at the same time. This support and the successes it has permitted also demonstrate that if given sufficient opportunities, PWD can become effective community builders, which in turn will help change the mistaken perception by society of the lack of capacities of this disadvantaged group.

Diversity

How have you enhanced the diversity of your staff and leadership, promoted participation of project beneficiaries or research communities in your activities, or otherwise included diversity in your program?

Our network is made of people with different types of disabilities such as mobility disabilities, visual impairment, hearing impairment, developmental disabilities, mental health problems... The Clubhouse has become a networking place for not only PWD, but also students, social workers, teachers, and other people without disabilities. Business people, lawyers and NGO professionals have also volunteered assistance to, or collaboration with, DRD in support of our endeavor to empower PWD.

Website and Publications: We are willing to have our narrative report quoted on the Ford Foundation website, or in a publication.

✓Certification

Name and Title of the person who prepared the report:

Vo Thi Hoang Yen, DRD Director

Name and Title of the person who is legally responsible for the grant:

Dr. Le Bao Lam, Rector of HCMC Open University

Date: September, 2011